

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation



FINAL DETERMINATION

This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
NARWHAL	SSN 671
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
NARWHAL (SSN 671)-class nuclear submarine	
Vessel Location	Current Status
Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, WA	Submarine Recycling Program

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
18 April 2016	Eligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
4 August 2016	Eligible

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	Third U.S. Navy submarine to carry the name of the Arctic whale (<i>Monodon monceros</i>)
Displacement	5,293 tons
Length	303 ft.
Beam	33 ft.
Draft	31 ft.

Speed	25+ kts.
Propulsion	NARWHAL was powered by a pressurized water S5G reactor, a prototype designed for the Navy for use on submarines. The reactor featured two coolant loops and two steam generators. The S5G designation referred to: S = Submarine platform; 5 = Fifth generation core as designed by the contractor; G = General Electric, the contracted designer.
Armament	Four 21-inch torpedo tubes
Laid Down	17 January 1966
Launched	9 September 1967
Built By	General Dynamics, Electric Boat Div., Groton, CT
Sponsor	Mrs. Glynn R. Donaho, wife of (ret.) VADM Donaho
Commissioned	12 July 1969
Inactivated	Deactivated prior to decommissioning, 16 January 1999
Decommissioned	1 July 1999
Stricken	1 July 1999

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	17 deployments throughout the world's oceans.
Awards	Navy Unit Commendation (1972), 4 Meritorious Unit Commendations, 5 Battle Efficiency "E" awards, 1 Navy Expeditionary Medal, 2 Armed Forces Service Medals, and 1 Secretary of the Navy Letter of Commendation

Noteworthy Events	Efforts were made to make NARWHAL the centerpiece of a planned National Submarine Science Discovery Center (NSSDC) in Newport, KY. Legislation signed on 30 September 2003 authorized SECNAV to transfer NARWHAL to the NSSDC. Due to insufficient fundraising, however, the project was canceled in 2006.
DANFS* Entry	Yes, but consists of a place-saver derived from this DOE.

**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

Criteria Evaluation¹

i. Was the vessel awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation?	No
ii. Did an individual act of heroism take place aboard the vessel such that an individual was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross?	No
iii. Was a President of the United States assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service?	No
iv. Was the vessel the first to incorporate engineering, weapons systems, or other upgrades that represent a revolutionary change in naval design or warfighting capabilities?	Yes. A unique submarine, NARWHAL was a “one-ship class,” with power plant, engine room, and forward compartment layout unlike any other boat. Her reactor enabled her to steam longer and further than any other submarine in existence. That new reactor considerably reduced the noise level of the submarine and made NARWHAL, at the time of commissioning, the quietest boat in the U.S. Naval service.
v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?	No
Historic Evaluation Conclusion	Eligible
Assessment of integrity of (as appropriate) design, materials, workmanship, feeling and/or association (only for vessels determined to be eligible)	Changes most likely made incident to usual upgrades common to most, if not all, naval vessels with service of that duration.

Sources	Naval Vessel Register
	Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships

¹ Evaluation conducted using triggers established for naval vessels in *Program Comment for the Department of Navy for the Disposition of Historic Vessels*, issued by the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation on 15 March 2010.

	Welcome Aboard brochure, undated
	Keel-laying Ceremony Brochure for NARWHAL 17 January 1966

Historic Preservation Stakeholder Comment

Historic preservation stakeholder comments received are considered when preparing final determinations. The initial determination for this vessel was made available for comment by historic preservation stakeholders for 60 days. During that time, the Navy received no written comments.

Comments Received	Comment Disposition